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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,732	12/28/2000	Matthew Graham Dyor	I	7582

27642 7590 11/04/2003

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EXAMINER

FLEURANTIN, JEAN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,732

Applicant(s)

DYOR, MATTHEW GRAHAM

Examiner

Jean B Fleurantin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 18-22 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 3-22 remain pending for examination.

Response to Applicant's Remarks

2. Applicant's arguments filed August 08, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because of the following:

a) Claims 18-22 are directed to a method of a method for determining an authenticated user's access rights to personal information, which different than claims 3-17 which directed to a system for managing personal information. Since claim 3 was previously presented in the instant application, therefore, claims 3-17 has been selected for the purpose of examination.

Examiner discusses the newly added limitations of claims 8-17 in the following rejection.

b) In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Cheng does not explicitly disclose a first set of relationships that define relationships between the group website objects and the group objects and a second set of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects. However, Hanson discloses the server may generate and send an electronic message

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to selected participants and the server may generate and send an electronic medium stored in the database in response to a first open action of the electronic message by at least one of the selected participants, (see col. 2, lines 39-43), and column 7, lines 40-45. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined teachings of Cheng and Hanson with a first set of relationships that define relationships between the group website objects and the group objects and a second set of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects. Such modification would allow the teachings of Cheng and Hanson to improve the accuracy and the reliability of the system and method for managing personal information, and to provide the highest quality service based upon the participant's email application capabilities, (see col. 12, lines 48-49).

c) In response to applicant's arguments on pages 14 and 15, that Cheng fails to teach or suggest "a second type of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects and a second type of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects". Furthermore "Hanson fails to make up for the deficiencies of Cheng." It is respectively submitted that Cheng and Hanson references disclose the claimed limitations as follow: Cheng discloses a system for managing personal information (see col. 3, lines 18-20) comprising "a group website tier comprising a plurality of group website objects" as a network for an organizational database to support collaborative computing between users within a computer network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects, (see col. 3, lines 56-59);

“a group tier comprising a plurality of users objects” as a support collaborative computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality objects, (see col. 4, lines 36-39);

“a user tier comprising a plurality of user objects” as a means for computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects, (see col. 4, lines 8-10);

“a first type of relationships that define which group objects have access to each of the plurality of group website object” as membership can expand by invitation or submitting requests, accounts and passwords are given securely to overseas operations, which restricted accesses to the database by these accounts are granted, (see cols. 18-19, lines 64-4); and

“a second type of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects” as a collaborative computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects, the utility includes means for virtually linking each member object with relationship definition which can be dynamically evaluated and resolved at runtime of the utility, (see cols. 4-5, lines 65-7). Cheng does not explicitly disclose a first set of relationships that define relationships between the group website objects and the group objects and a second set of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects. However, Hanson discloses the server may generate and send an electronic message to selected participants and the server may generate and send an electronic medium stored in the database in response to a first open action of the electronic message by at least one of the selected participants, (see col. 2, lines 39-43), and column 7, lines 40-45. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

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invention was made to modify the combined teachings of Cheng and Hanson with a first set of relationships that define relationships between the group website objects and the group objects and a second set of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects. Such modification would allow the teachings of Cheng and Hanson to improve the accuracy and the reliability of the system and method for managing personal information, and to provide the highest quality service based upon the participant's email application capabilities, (see col. 12, lines 48-49).

d) Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 18 have been considered but are moot as indicated in 2a.

Although Cheng and Hanson references do not explicitly disclose the steps of claims 3-17, Cheng and Hanson clearly teach the system in the art.

Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,067,548 issued to Cheng (hereinafter "Cheng") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,461 Hanson et al. (hereinafter "Hanson").

As per claim 3, Cheng discloses a system for managing personal information (see col. 3, lines 18-20) comprising "a group website tier comprising a plurality of group website objects" as a network for an organizational database to support collaborative computing between users within a computer network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects, (see col. 3, lines 56-59);

"a group tier comprising a plurality of users objects" as a support collaborative computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality objects, (see col. 4, lines 36-39);

"a user tier comprising a plurality of user objects" as a means for computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects, (see col. 4, lines 8-10);

"a first type of relationships that define which group objects have access to each of the plurality of group website object" as membership can expand by invitation or submitting

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requests, accounts and passwords are given securely to overseas operations, which restricted accesses to the database by these accounts are granted, (see cols. 18-19, lines 64-4); and

“a second type of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects” as a collaborative computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects, the utility includes means for virtually linking each member object with relationship definition which can be dynamically evaluated and resolved at runtime of the utility, (see cols. 4-5, lines 65-7). Cheng does not explicitly disclose a first set of relationships that define relationships between the group website objects and the group objects and a second set of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects. However, Hanson discloses the server may generate and send an electronic message to selected participants and the server may generate and send an electronic medium stored in the database in response to a first open action of the electronic message by at least one of the selected participants, (see col. 2, lines 39-43), and column 7, lines 40-45. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined teachings of Cheng and Hanson with a first set of relationships that define relationships between the group website objects and the group objects and a second set of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects. Such modification would allow the teachings of Cheng and Hanson to improve the accuracy and the reliability of the system and method for managing personal information, and to provide the highest quality service based upon the participant's email application capabilities, (see col. 12, lines 48-49).

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As per claim 4, Cheng discloses, “wherein the second set of relationships comprises a third type of relationship that defines which user objects are members of each of the plurality of group objects” as the work is defined by a procedure having a plurality of nodes with relationships defined therebetween, (see col. 16, lines 24-26).

As per claim 5, Cheng discloses, “wherein each of the objects comprises an administrator group object attribute that determines an administrator group object that has rights to modify relationships and attributes associated with the object” as a unique dynamic interrelationship that expressed by using regular expressions over member attributes and contextual variables the relationship model is important in supporting collaborative software such as workflow for authentication, authorization and dynamic job assignment, (see col. 5, lines 53-58).

As per claim 6, Cheng discloses, “the system further comprising a profile tier comprising a plurality of profile objects” as each contact on the list can have profile attributes such as an email address, (see col. 17, lines 59-60), “wherein each of the profile objects comprises an associated user object attribute that determines with which user object a profile object is associated” as any one of the members 54 can relate or link to other members 54 through virtual links 56 which refers to attributes 60 and context 62, the context provides information about the application environment and is defined freely as variable by the user, (see col. 6, lines 56-60);

“an administrator group object attribute that determines an administrator group object that has rights to modify relationships and attributes associated with the object, and a plurality of personal information attributes”, (see col. 6, lines 48-55).

As per claim 7, in addition to the discussion in claim 3, Cheng further discloses, “wherein each of the profile objects comprises an associated user object attribute, an administrator group object attribute, and a plurality of personal information attributes”, (see col. 3, lines 23-25).

As per claim 8, in addition to the discussion in claim 3, Cheng further discloses “wherein the active user has access rights to the set of profiles” as the membership can expand by invitation or submitting requests, accounts and passwords are given securely to overseas operations, which restricted accesses to the database by these accounts are granted, (see col. 19, lines 1-4).

As per claims 9 and 10, the limitations of claims 9 and 10 are rejected in the analysis of claim 3, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

As per claim 11, in addition to the discussion in claim 3, Cheng further discloses the ‘system is configured to grant access to the first website to members of the first group and deny access to the first group website to members of the second group, and to resent only those profiles associated with the second group” as membership can expand by invitation or

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submitting requests, accounts and passwords are given securely to overseas operations, which restricted accesses to the database by these accounts are granted, (see cols. 18-19, lines 64-4).

As per claim 12, in addition to the discussion in claim 17, Cheng further discloses “an active user has rights to create a collection of group website objects and a collection of group objects, wherein objects created by the active user are referred to collectively as the created objects, users can update worldwide projects and their status and information all through internet access” as the membership can expand by invitation or submitting requests, accounts and passwords are given securely to overseas operations, which restricted accesses to the database by these accounts are granted, (see cols. 18-19, lines 64-6);

“the active user has rights to designate an administrative group for each of the created objects,” (see col. 6, lines 48-55);

“the active user has rights to establish relationship between any two objects for which the active user has administrative rights,” (see col. 19, lines 1-4);

“the active user does not have rights to establish relationships between any two objects wherein the active user does not have administrative rights over at least one of the two objects,” (see col. 19, lines 1-4).

As per claim 13, the limitations of claim 13 are rejected in the analysis of claim 3, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

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As per claims 14 and 15, in addition to the discussion in claim 3, Cheng further discloses “generating an invitation to join a group based on input from a user having administrative rights over the group” as the relationship model is important in supporting collaborative workflow, for authentication, authorization and dynamic job assignment, (see col. 5, lines 55-58).

As per claims 16, in addition to the discussion in claim 3 and 14, Cheng further discloses “enabling an active user to invite a group object to group website object when the active user has administrative rights over the group website object and does not have administrative rights over the group object”, (see col. 19, lines 1-4);

“enabling an active user to request group membership to a group website object when the active user has administrative rights over the group object and does not have administrative rights over the group website object”, (see col. 19, lines 1-4).

As per claim 17, Cheng discloses, “wherein at least one of the user objects comprises a first password having a first set of rights and a second password having a second set of rights” as the membership can expand by invitation or submitting requests, accounts and passwords (first and second passwords) are given securely to overseas operations, which restricted accesses to the database by these accounts are granted, (see col. 19, lines 1-4).

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from examiner should be directed to Jean Bolte Fleurantin at (703) 308-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. KIM VU can be reached at (703) 305-8449. The FAX phone numbers for the Group 2100 Customer Service Center are: ***After Final*** (703) 746-7238, ***Official*** (703) 746-7239, and ***Non-Official*** (703) 746-7240. NOTE: Documents transmitted by facsimile will be entered as official documents on the file wrapper unless clearly marked "***DRAFT***".

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2100 Customer Service Center receptionist whose telephone numbers are (703) 306-5631, (703) 306-5632, (703) 306-5633.



Jean Bolte Fleurantin

10/29/03

JBF/



JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER